

1 monitor such as those used by computer systems. Set-top box 410 and/or television 430 may also be
2 capable of accepting digital data in either a compressed or uncompressed form and consequently data may
3 be routed there directly. In the preferred embodiment, the uncompressed digital data is routed to
4 capture/display 500 for conversion to an NTSC, PAL, SECAM or other standard video signal for viewing
5 on one or more of the display devices, TV 430, monitor 440 or VCR 450.

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8 What is claimed is:

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10 *Sub 701*
11 1. A method for time-shifted viewing of broadcast audio/video programs comprising:
12 the step of receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs; and
13 the step of storing said programs as data in a cyclic buffer wherein upon being filled said cyclic
14 buffer begins replacing the oldest of said data with the newest of said data; and
15 the step of providing simultaneous playback control of said data independently from said step of
16 storing said programs wherein said playback control comprises random access play, stop, pause, rewind
17 and fast-forward functions;
18 whereby said time-shifted viewing is selectably delayed relative to initiation of said broadcast
19 audio/video programs and which may be initiated and controlled simultaneously with said storing of said
20 programs.
21 2. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
22 the step of moving said program data from the cyclic buffer to one or more storage devices for
23 archival of said program data;
24 wherein said one or more storage devices are used for selective retrieval, playback and control of
25 said programs.
26 3. A method as in claim 2 further comprising:
27 the step of storing data representing user-control of playback of said programs on one or more
28 storage devices;
29 wherein said user-control playback data is stored for later use.
30 4. A method as in claim 3 further comprising:
31 the step of transmitting said user-control playback data to one or more receivers;
32 wherein said user-control playback data is processed externally from the present system.
33 5. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
34 the step of receiving broadcast program configuration data;
35 wherein said broadcast program configuration data is used for system configuration for one or
36 more particular broadcast programs.
37 6. A system for time-shifted viewing of broadcast audio/video programs comprising:
38 video input means for receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs; and
39 cyclic buffer means for storing said programs as program data in a cyclical fashion wherein upon
40 being filled, said cyclic buffer begins replacing the oldest data with the newest of said data and is
41 operable for simultaneous reading and writing of the said data; and
42 viewing playback means for providing playback control of said data independently from the
43 storing of said programs wherein said playback control comprises random access playback, stop, pause,
44 rewind and fast-forward functions;
45 whereby said time-shifted viewing is selectably delayed relative to initiation of said broadcast
46 audio/video programs and which may be initiated and controlled simultaneously with said storing of said
47 programs.
48 7. A system as in claim 6 further comprising:
49 archive means for semi-permanent storage of said program data;
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